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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/13/2019
TAGS: [E](#)[A](#)[I](#)[R](#) [P](#)[R](#)[E](#)[L](#) [R](#)[U](#) [A](#)[F](#)
SUBJECT: NO U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN RUSSIAN COURIER
OBSTRUCTION AT KABUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

REF: MOSCOW 2548

Classified By: CDDEA Ambassador E. Anthony Wayne for
reasons 1.4 b and d

¶1. (C) Regarding the points contained in the Russian nonpaper reported in reftel, Post is aware of the October 5 incident in which Global Strategy Group, a British company, attempted to search a Russian diplomatic pouch upon its arrival in Kabul.

¶2. (U) Global is under contract to the government of the United Arab Emirates to provide aviation security screening at Kabul and Kandahar international airports. The Afghan Ministry of Transportation and Civil Aviation (MOTCA) is responsible for overseeing the company.

¶3. (U) The USG has no connection to Global or this incident. However, the U.S. Transportation Security Agency representative at post is briefing MOTCA officials on proper diplomatic pouch procedures. He will also suggest a written policy on pouch handling and the Vienna Convention be incorporated into security guidance MOTCA provides to Global.

¶4. (C) Post asks that Embassy Moscow pass this information, clarifying the lack of U.S. involvement in the October 5 incident or in Global's activities in Afghanistan to the Russian Foreign Ministry.

EIKENBERRY